

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /104 W
-----151937Z 078741 /46

R 151452Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS, LY, PORG
SUBJECT: MFA OFFICIALS COMMENTS RE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

1. IN COMPARING NOTES WITH EMBOFF ON THIS YEAR'S ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT TRIPOLI, THE DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN DIVISION (VERED) MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

2. ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION. THE ISLAMIC STATES HAD NOT BEEN MUCH MORE EXTREME VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR BECAUSE "THERE WAS LITTLE THAT THEY COULD ADD."

3. TURKEY AND CYPRUS. FOLLOWING A PRACTICE THEY HAD ADOPTED AFTER THE CYPRUS INVASION, THE TURKS HAD SUBMITTED "SECRET" WRITTEN RESERVATIONS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE REGARDING THEIR FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS RE ISRAEL AND CYPRUS. (GABON WAS ALSO SAID TO HAVE HAD SOME RESERVATIONS RE ISRAEL.) IN ADDITION TO THE CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT OF ERITREA, THERE HAD BEEN LOW-KEY DIFFERENCES AMONG THE VARIOUS ISLAMIC STATES OVER CYPRUS, WITH SYRIA AND LEBANON IN PARTICULAR RESERVING THEIR POSITIONS. AND ALTHOUGH QADDHAFI IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT HAD JUSTIFIED THE TURKISH ACTION IN CYPRUS,

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THE LIBYAN EMBASSY THERE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN THE GREEK PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS AN "IMPROVED" (I.E., CLEANED UP) VERSION OF QADDHAFI'S SPEECH, DELETING ITS MORE OFFENSIVE REFERENCES. TURKEY HAD BEEN QUITE ACTIVE AT THE CONFERENCE IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR OBTAINING A MORE FAVORABLE UNGA RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS LATER THIS YEAR.

4. SAUDI AID. AS THEY DID LAST YEAR, THE SAUDIS MADE A GENEROUS AID PLEDGE; LAST YEAR THERE WAS A GAP BETWEEN THE SAUDI PLEDGE AND THEIR ACTUAL CONTRIBUTION.

5. THE CONFERENCE ALSO REPEATED LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO EXTEND SPECIAL HELP TO THOSE ISLAMIC STATES WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE SEA (E.G., AFGHANISTAN), AND PLEDGED TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES, ONE OF THEM IN UGANDA.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO INFO ADDRESSES AS APPROPRIATE.
LEWIS

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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